

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 SY-05 MCT-02 AID-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 PC-01 /086 W
-----019407 151308Z /43

R 131445Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7099
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM,NU
SUBJECT: JUSTICE: TWO CASES

REF: A) MANAGUA 962, B) MANAGUA 3053

1. ON JULY 6, THE RESULTS WERE ANNOUNCED OF THE GN INVESTIGATION OF THE DEATHS IN FEBRUARY OF TWO UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND THE VERDICT IN ANOTHER JURY TRIAL OF AN FSLN MEMBER. IN BOTH CASES NO ONE WAS FOUND GUILTY.

2. IN THE CASE OF THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY (UNAN), STUDENT PROTEST DISTURBANCES ON FEBRUARY 27 RESULTED IN MEMBERS OF A GN PATROL JEEP ENTERING THE UNIVERSITY GROUNDS THROWING TEAR GAS AND SHOOTING (REF A). TWO STUDENTS DIED AND A PROFESSOR WAS WOUNDED. THE GN VERSION WAS THAT THE PATROL JEEP HAD BEEN FIRED ON AND THE GN WAS RETURNING FIRE. THE INVESTIGATION PRODUCED EXTENSIVE EYE-WITNESS TESTIMONY WHICH WAS CONTRADICTORY. THIS RESULTED IN A CONCLUSION THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE WHO HAD FIRED THE
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FATAL SHOTS AS WELL AS WHETHER THE PATROL HAD IN FACT BEEN FIRED AT.

E. THE TRIAL OF AN ADMITTED MEMBER OF THE FSLN WAS ANOTHER CASE OF A JURY ABSOLVING A REVOLUTIONARY. UNLIKE THE UNANIMOUS DECISION IN THE RECENT MASAYA TRIAL (REF B), IN THIS CASE THE JURY IN CHINANDEGA WAS DEVIDED

FIVE TO TWO IN FAVOR OF ACQUITAL.

4. COMMENT: OPPONENTS OF THE REGIME WILL CONDEMN THE
INCOLCLUSIVE RESULT OF THE INVESTIGATION OF THE UNIVERSITY
DEATHS AS A FURTHER DEMONSTRATION OF LACK OF JUSTICE AND
HAIL THE CHINANDEGA JURY VERDICT AS JUST. GON SUPPORTERS
WILL HAVE THE OPPOSITE POINT OF VIEW. SOLAUN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICE INVESTIGATIONS, DEATHS, STUDENTS, COURT DECISIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MANAGU03170
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780290-1152
Format: TEL
From: MANAGUA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780765/aaaaccht.tel
Line Count: 69
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5455da75-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MANAGUA 962, 78 MANAGUA 3053
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2022422
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JUSTICE: TWO CASES
TAGS: SHUM, NU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5455da75-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014